



January 2001

Arizona State Board of Pharmacy

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Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Happy New Year

In the truest sense of fairness, to those among our ranks who hold to the belief that the 21st century begins January 1, 2001...Happy New Millennium...and to those that celebrated the new millennium a year ago...Happy New Year...and to those celebrating both years...cheers!

2001 Board Meeting Dates, Locations, Law CE Credit

- ♦ January 10-11, Midwestern University, Glendale, *law continuing education (CE) offered*
- ♦ March 7-8, Board Office, *NO law CE offered*
- ♦ May 16-17, Hondah Conference Center, Pinetop, *law CE offered*
- ♦ July 12, Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson, *law CE offered*
- ♦ September 5-6, Board Office, *NO law CE offered*
- ♦ November 14-15, Board Office, *NO law CE offered*

The decision to offer law CE on specified Arizona State Board of Pharmacy meeting dates and locations was based on two critical facts: first, the meeting room at the new Board office location will accommodate 30 persons in the audience and second, the availability of Law CE has dramatically improved in the recent past. The Arizona Pharmacy Association at 480/838-3385 is an excellent source of law CE as are many pharmacy publications. FYI: Board meetings generally begin at 9 AM; call the Board office to confirm. One additional reminder on CE: before participating in any CE that you will rely on for license renewal, be certain that it is American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) approved or, in the case of **pharmacy law CE**, it is either ACPE or Arizona State Board of Pharmacy approved. Non ACPE-approved CE is not acceptable for license renewal purposes.

New Compliance Officer

Some readers may have already met our newest compliance officer, Cheryl Frush, RPh, MBA. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland College of Pharmacy. Cheryl is married to pharmacist Ron Frush and resides in the northeast Phoenix metropolitan area. She is presently enrolled in the non-traditional PharmD program at Midwestern University College of Pharmacy Glendale. Initially licensed as a pharmacist in Maryland in 1979, Cheryl became licensed in Arizona in 1984. She has practiced in a variety of pharmacy settings. We are pleased to have Cheryl on staff and know that you too will appreciate her thorough and professional approach to compliance visits. Cheryl's Board of Pharmacy office phone number is 623/463-ASBP (2727), ext 130. Leave a message and she will contact you.

Recent Articles of Interest

Regular readers will recall recent articles relating to levothyroxine (aka synthetic T4) and the variety of interpretations among both physicians and pharmacists as to the interchangeability (generic substitution) of the existing synthetic T4 oral dosages available. As a reminder, synthetic T4 oral dosage forms are not currently listed in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) "Orange Book" as being generically equivalent. You may also recall that the FDA has advised manufacturers to submit "new drug applications" for their products to allow for product comparisons and eventually leading to an FDA generic equivalency rating based on their findings.

- ♦ A recent newsletter (*Drug Facts & Comparisons*, October 2000) included the following: "Jerome Stevens Pharmaceutical's Unithroid (levothyroxine sodium) tablets (synthetic T4) has been approved for hypothyroidism and pituitary TSH suppression. The product has been marketed for more than 40 years without FDA approval (as a pre-1938 marketed drug). Additional levothyroxine products are expected to gain FDA approval later this year to ensure stability and potency among this class of drugs." Be alert for changes in the status of synthetic T4 products in the coming months.
- ♦ *Pharmacist Letter*, September 2000, reports that "new Lithobid" tablets have a six-month expiration date due to a new supplier requiring long-term stability studies to determine shelf life. Be careful not to dispense "expired" Lithobid, or any expired item for that matter.
- ♦ An Associated Press article dated September 2000 warns readers of a resurgence of interest in laetrile, especially through Internet sources. Interestingly, laetrile is not illegal in Arizona. However, there is a caveat to this statement. It is illegal nationally, and to be used in Arizona it must be produced within Arizona. To our knowledge there are no commercial sources of laetrile in Arizona. Other names for laetrile include amygdalin and vitamin B₁₇. Please advise our office if you know of laetrile distribution in Arizona.

Administrative Rules

As of November 13, 2000, changes to the following Board rules became effective: R4-23-402, formalizing the pharmacist's professional prerogative of whether to fill a particular prescription. R4-23-110, various amendments to the "definitions." R4-23-205, initiates fees for compressed medical gas distributors/suppliers. The following sections were amended to accommodate the legislative mandates to issue permits to nonresident wholesalers and manufacturers of methamphetamine precursor chemicals and to

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allow the sale of nonprescription drugs in vending machines: R4-23-602, R4-23-603, R4-23-605, and R4-23-607.

The Board of Pharmacy continues to review and propose amendments to its administrative rules in compliance with the state's guidelines. Do not hesitate to contact a compliance officer or the director or deputy director anytime you have questions relating to state or federal statutes or rules.

Board Recognizes Brian Erstad

This issue's "atta boy" recognition goes to Brian L. Erstad, PharmD, FASHP, member of the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy faculty, who was elected to serve on the Arizona Society of Health-System Pharmacists Board of Directors.

National News Article Calls for Second Look

Knowing it is easy to skim or get distracted and set the *Newsletter* aside, this appeal is unusual but justified (in the editor's opinion). All articles in the *Newsletter* have value; however, one article in the National News section seems to rise above the others in terms of practical application. Please read "*Questions, Questions, Questions...Insulin, Tablet Splitting, etc*" in this newsletter. Maybe even read it a second time and reflect on your education and your professional responsibility to your patient and his or her best health interests. It seems that priorities can become misconstrued. Hopefully, this well written article will help pharmacists rethink their priorities on traditional professional values rather than being misled by profit-motivated third parties.

Disciplinary/Reinstatement Actions

Board of Pharmacy

Albertson's, #965 and #946, monetary penalty (fine), expired non-prescription drugs offered to the public.

Karen D. Lieb, RPh #8619, license revoked.

Jeffrey S. Ramsey, RPh #11323, suspended six months, 800 hours community service, five-year Pharmacists Assisting Pharmacists of Arizona contract, may appear after January 1, 2001, to request stay of suspension and reinstatement on probation.

Kiel T. Gillette, RPh #9347, failed continuing education (CE) audit monetary penalty and additional CE hours, no loss of license.

J. B. Reitz, RPh #12397, dispensing error, one-year probation plus 15 hours additional CE on dispensing error prevention.

Walgreen AZ Drug Co, permit censured and monetary penalty imposed, failure to operate a pharmacy in compliance with board regulations.

Osco #2092 and #2093, monetary penalty, offering expired non-prescription drugs for sale to the public.

The following pharmacists have had their probation terminated and are currently "in-good-standing": **Steve Lamahieu, RPh; A. David Cukier, RPh; Thomas R. Bellis; and Gregory Shephard.**

Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine/Surgery

Jon Austin, DO #1395, voluntary surrender of license to practice effective October 4, 2000

Marilyn Wells, DO #2111, voluntary surrender of license to practice effective September 13, 2000

Arturo Portales, DO #3315, voluntary surrender of license to practice effective October 23, 2000

Board of Medical Examiners

John M. Kast, MD #23805, license "inactive" effective August 3, 2000 – no prescription privileges.

Board of Dental Examiners

Steven L. Hasse, DDS #3882, voluntary surrender of license effective August 30, 2000.

David C. Grieb, DMD #4152, voluntary surrender of license effective November 17, 2000.

Irwin Parker, DDS #1045, voluntary surrender of license effective July 26, 2000.

Notice: Before making a prescription dispensing decision pursuant to information reported in this issue, you are encouraged to verify the current condition of a license with the appropriate licensing agency (Board).

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